

REMARKS***Claim Rejection – 35 USC §112***

Claim 7 has now been cancelled without prejudice, which overcomes this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103

It is respectfully that the claims as amended are clearly patentably distinguished from the prior art.

Claim 1, as amended, recites a computer-implemented method for modelling loans, in which a user can specify a number of options relevant to the loan. These include at least one of the following options:

(Option 1) Reduced repayments for a specified period, between a user-specified start date and a user-specified end date. For example, the user can specify reduced payments in those years when the user's children will be at college.

(Option 2) Variable repayments over different months of the year, using twelve user-specified factors, one for each of the twelve months of the year. For example, the user can specify reduced payments each December, or increased payments each April. As described on page 9 of the disclosure, these twelve parameters may be specified by means of a set of twelve on-screen sliders.

Yoshino (US 5,058,009) describes a financial calculator for calculating amortization or depreciation, and graphically displaying the results of the calculation. However, as noted by the examiner, Yoshino fails to teach enabling a user to specify a number of options.

Weber (Real Estate Today v23, n1, p44) describes using a calculator or computer to calculate the effect of increasing mortgage repayments every year or at selected intervals, or periodically paying a lump sum on the principal.

It is also agreed that it is well known for borrowers to refinance to obtain better rates, or to have a mortgage with an interest rate that changes during the life of the loan according to movements in the index rate.

However, it is submitted that there is absolutely no suggestion in any of this of enabling a user to specify either of the two options as recited in claim 1. Specifically, there is no suggestion of allowing users to specify reduced repayments between a user-specified start date and a user-specified end date, or to specify variable repayments over different months of the year, using twelve user-specified factors, one for each of the twelve months of the year.

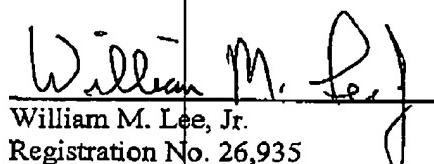
Similar arguments apply also to the other claims.

Conclusion

In summary, it is submitted that this application is now clearly in order for allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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